Parallels between James and the Sermon on the Mount

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| **The Letter of James** | **Sermon on the Mount (Gospel of Matthew)** |
| “Whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy” (1:2). | “When people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you . . . rejoice and be glad” (5:11–12). |
| “You may be mature [*teleioi*] and complete, lacking in nothing” (1:4). | “Be perfect [*teleioi*] . . . as your heavenly Father is perfect” (5:48). |
| “Ask God . . . and it will be given you” (1:5). | “Ask, and it will be given you” (7:7). |
| “Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers” (1:22). | “Everyone then who hears these words . . . and acts on them will be like a wise person” (7:24). |
| “Has not God chosen the poor in the world. . . to be heirs of the kingdom?” (2:5). | “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (5:3). |
| “Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it” (2:10). | “Whoever, then, relaxes one of the least of these commandments . . . shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven” (5:19). |
| “Judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy” (2:13). | “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (5:7). |
| “What good is it . . . if you say you have faith, but do not have works? Can faith save you?” (2:14). | “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father” (7:21). |
| “Can a fig tree . . . yield olives, or a grapevine figs?” (3:12). | “Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?” (7:16). |
| “A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace” (3:18). | “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (5:9). |
| “Friendship with the world is enmity with God” (4:4). | “You cannot serve God and wealth” (6:24). |
| “Purify your hearts” (4:8). | “Blessed are the pure in heart” (5:8). |
| “Who, then, are you to judge your neighbor?” (4:12). | “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged” (7:1). |
| “Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten; your gold and silver have rusted” (5:2–3). | “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal” (6:19). |
| “Do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged” (5:9). | “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged” (7:1). |
| “Do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your‘ Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no” (5:12). | “Do not swear at all, either by heaven . . . or by the earth. . . . Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’” (5:34–37). |